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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of : Masaki KATOH et al.

Serial No. : 09/928,882

Group Art Unit: 2652

Date Filed : August 13, 2001

Examiner:

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Technology Center 2600

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10036

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

The information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the information identified herein are also provided.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The enclosed items were cited in a search report completed on June 25, 2002 in connection with European Application No.01119462.8 which corresponds to the above-identified application. A copy of the search report is enclosed.

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the
U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Assistant
Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Richard F. Jaworski
Richard F. Jaworski
Reg. No. 33,515

July 22, 2002
Date

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.


The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

To the best of Applicants knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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